

**HOW CAN WE STAND FIRM IN THE MIDST OF SUFFERING?
PART 1: ENDURING REAL THREATS TO OUR FAITH IN THE LORD
1 Thessalonians 3:1-5**

- I. **REMEMBER GOD USES HIS WORD THROUGH HIS SERVANTS TO STRENGTHEN AND ENCOURAGE US AS TO THE FAITH:** Out of great concern, Paul sacrificially sent Timothy to strengthen and encourage them in their faith **(1-2)**

- II. **REALIZE THERE ARE REAL DANGERS TO OUR STANDING FIRM IN OUR FAITH IN JESUS:** Paul was very concerned for the Thessalonians faith amid their suffering and temptation, so he sent Timothy to strengthen and encourage them in their faith **(3-5)**
 - A. Amid suffering **they were in danger of being emotionally carried away** through a lack of biblical knowledge (3-4)
 - 1. So, God sends His Word so that we will not be emotionally carried away when suffering hits (3a)

 - 2. ...Because we are destined for temporal suffering, which was predicted and did come (3b-4)

 - B. Amid suffering **they were in danger of yielding to the tempter's temptation to not to trust Christ** and to see those who bring the Word wrongly, thus the Word's work in them would be in vain (5)

(We will look at verses 6-13 more deeply next time)

- III. **RECEIVE THE WORD** by those sent **AND RESPOND IN FAITH:** Timothy reports **back the good news of their faith and love**, as evidenced by the Thessalonians thoughts toward and desire to see Paul and his companions **(6-8)**